I917.7374
NEWT
1985
c.3

12952795

ILLINOIS

newton lake

STATE
FISH AND WILDLIFE
AREA

ILLINOIS STATE LIBRARY
NOV 22 1985
ILLINOIS DOCUMENTS

CONSERVATION

Welcome to Newton Lake State Fish and Wildlife Area!

In 1979 the Illinois Department of Conservation signed a 25-year lease with Central Illinois Public Service Company which designated the 1,775 acre Newton lake and 540 acres of shoreline as a day use conservation area. By agreement, recreational activities in the area consist of bank and boat fishing, picnicking, and trail use.

History — Central Illinois Public Service Company (CIPS) constructed an electric power generating plant in Jasper County southwest of Newton, Illinois. The Newton Plant is the most modern in the network of CIPS generating plants. The plant is fueled by coal and utilizes the latest developments in sulfur dioxide removal systems. It is hoped that this system will enable the plant to continue to burn high sulfur Illinois coal, yet remain with environmental safety standards. When the two generators at the plant operate simultaneously a total generating capacity of approximately 1,180,000 kilowatts is produced. CIPS provides electric service to an estimated 760,000 people in 65 counties over a service area of 20,000 square miles.

Wildlife — A trip to Newton Lake for the nature lover will be rewarding. White-tailed deer and many smaller varieties of wildlife can be found. Blue Heron can be seen in shallow coves and a large number of ducks and geese remain on the lake during most of the winter.

Prairie Chickens — Jasper County hosts the largest of three prairie chicken flocks still existing in Illinois. Large flocks were once a common sight in Illinois. The prairie chicken has earned fame through the uniqueness of its mating ritual. Central Illinois Public Service Company has designated approximately 240 acres of its property as additional prairie chicken sanctuary.

FACILITIES

Boating — You can launch your boat from the two-lane ramp at the south access area. Concessions are available near the lake. The northern ends of the Sand Creek and Laws Creek fingers of the lake are restricted areas. (Refer to brochure map) Sailboating and swimming are not permitted.

Fishing — Newton Lake has a good bass population as a result of a comprehensive stocking program initiated shortly after the lake was impounded in 1976. Pole and line fishing only is permitted with a limit of two poles per fisherman.

To avoid the possibility of over harvest and thus assure good fishing in the future, it is necessary to impose an 18 inch minimum length on largemouth bass and a daily creel limit of three per angler. The lake may produce some of the largest bass in Illinois

Anglers who catch legal size bass but do not desire to keep them are encouraged to return the fish to the lake. All sub-legal size bass must be released immediately after catching. Fish released immediately after catching have the maximum chance of survival. Bass are measured from the top of the mouth when closed to the tip of the tail when compressed and while lying flat on top of a ruler. Use of a bump board in measuring fish is suggested.

Other game fish in the lake include walleye which will not reproduce and must be periodically restocked to maintain the fishery. Fishermen are permitted to take six walleye daily, each of which must be at least 14 inches in length.

There are no size or creel limits on any other species of fish present in the lake. The crappie and channel catfish populations in the lake are excellent. For safety reasons ice fishing is not allowed. There is no overnight boat docking. **It is suggested that all fishing tournaments be scheduled in advance. Tournaments involving 25 persons or more must be scheduled in advance.**

Trails — Twenty two miles of trail along the picturesque shoreline of the lake were opened in 1980. The trail parking lot is at the North Access area. The trails are open to hiking, cross-country skiing and equestrian use. Horse rentals are not available. Motorized vehicles are prohibited.

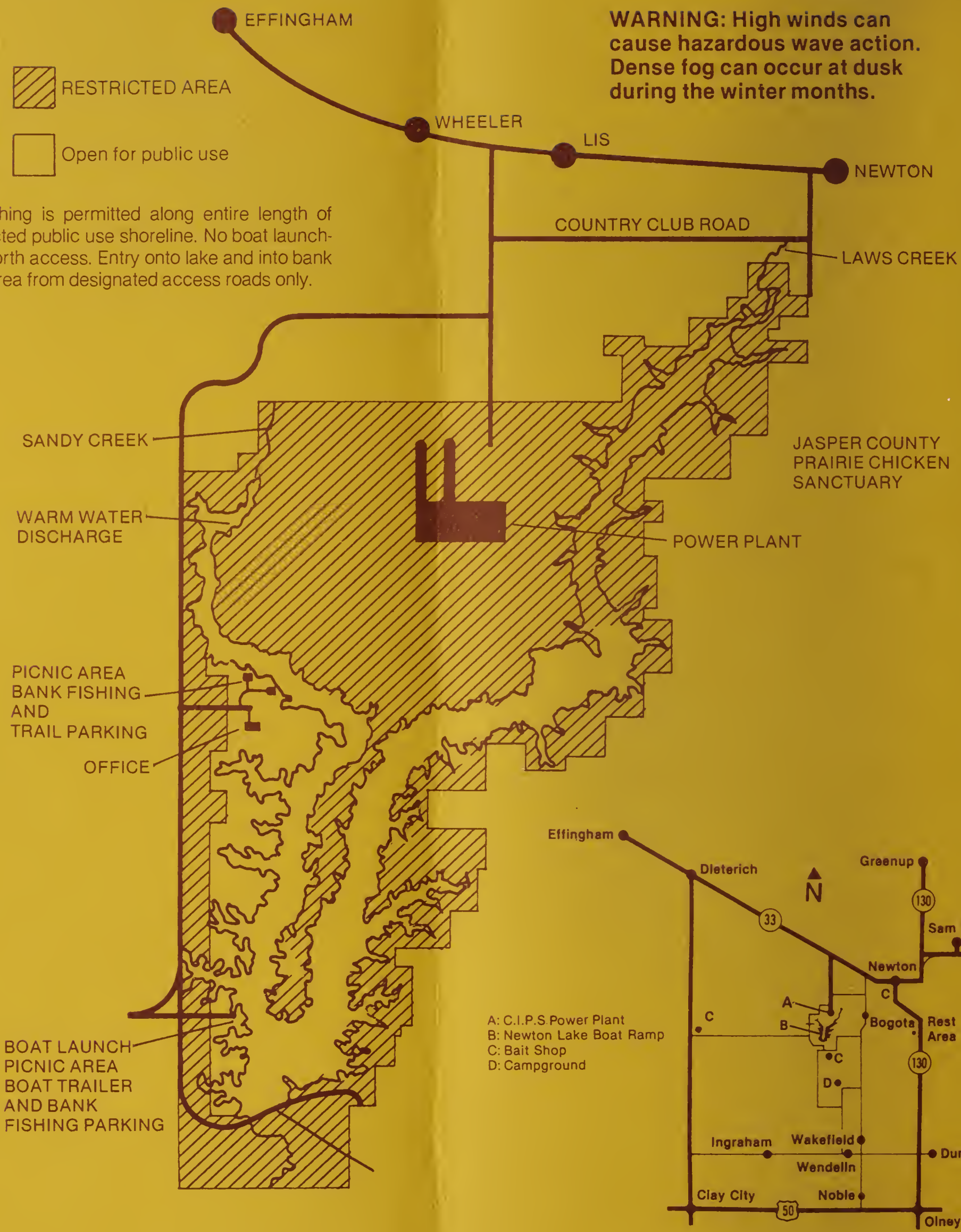
Picnicking — Picnicking facilities are available in both the north and south access areas. The picnic areas offer a scenic view of the lake. Large groups should contact the site staff in advance.

WARNING: High winds can cause hazardous wave action. Dense fog can occur at dusk during the winter months.

RESTRICTED AREA

Open for public use

Bank fishing is permitted along entire length of unrestricted public use shoreline. No boat launching at North access. Entry onto lake and into bank fishing area from designated access roads only.



LETTERS INDICATE DISTANCE TRAVELED FROM TRAIL HEAD

A	TRAIL HEAD	RETURN LOOP	
B	4.0	(I) TO (J)	.9
C	5.3	(J) TO (K)	.9
D	6.7	(K) TO A	1.4
E	7.2		
F	8.5	TOTAL TRAIL MILES 15.1	
G	10.0		
H	10.7		
I	11.9		

TOTAL TRAIL MILES ROUND TRIP — NO RETURN LOOP 22.5

----- RETURN LOOP SHORTCUT TO THE TRAILHEAD

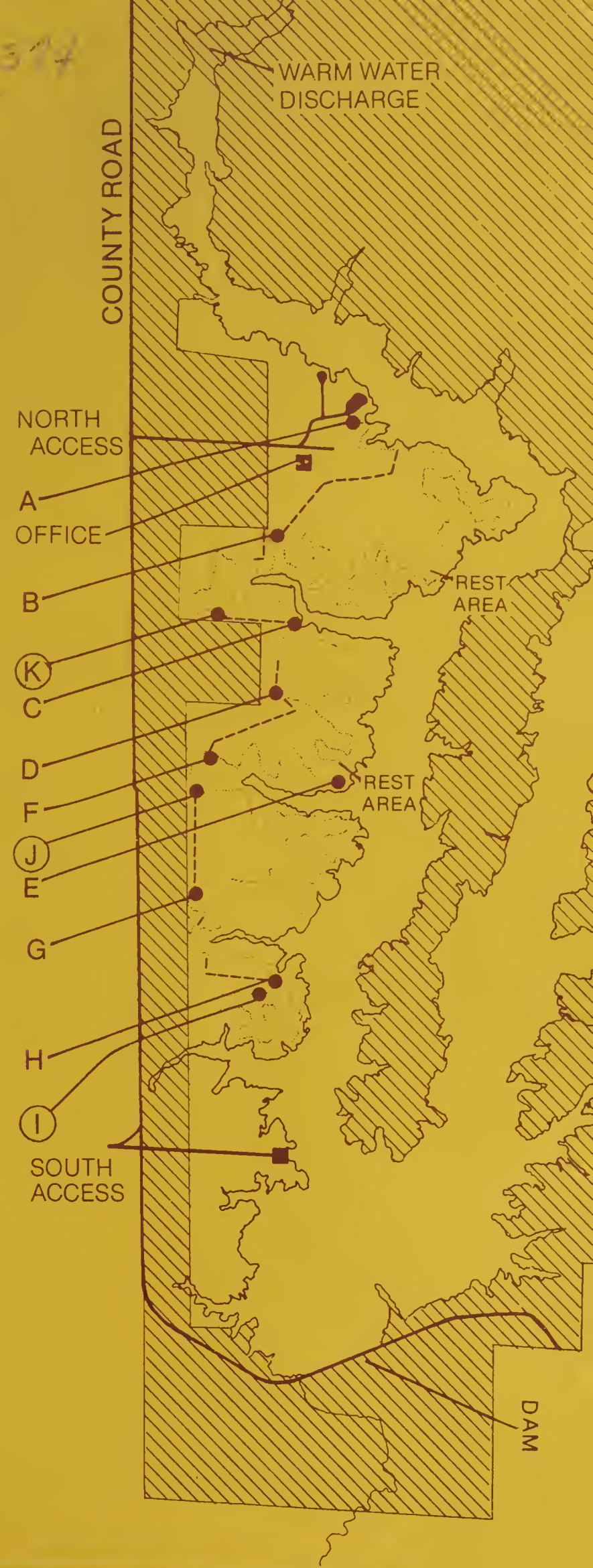
TRAIL

TRAIL GUIDE

The Newton Lake trail system begins at the North Access large parking area. The trails are open for horseback riding, hiking, and cross country skiing. Motorized vehicles are prohibited. The main trail follows the lake shoreline winding its way south to a total distance of 11.9 miles. Returning to the trailhead by retracing the original route increases the total distance to 22.6 miles. As a convenience for trail users a short cut return loop permits visitors to return to the trailhead by a more direct route. From the farthest point south to the trailhead the return loop is 3.2 miles in length. If a visitor travels the main trail south and the return loop north the total distance is 15.1 miles. The letters A through K shown on the adjacent trail map are provided to indicate mileage at various locations.

Please remain on the trails at all times. When soil conditions are wet the trails may be closed. Contact the park office for additional information.

I29.9:374
NEWT
1985
c.3



3 1129 00221 9723

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Admittance will not be granted to groups of 25 or more persons to any state area unless permission from the area staff has been secured in advance. Groups of minors are required to have adequate supervision of at least one responsible adult for each group of 15 minors.

All state areas are open year round, closing only for Christmas Day and New Years Day. When weather conditions necessitate the closing of park roads during freezing and thawing periods, access to park facilities is by foot only.

This area is for everyone to enjoy so please help keep it clean. All vehicles must remain on existing roadways and parking lots. No plants, flowers, shrubs, or trees may be removed or damaged. Fires are permitted only in camp stoves located in the picnic areas. All pets must be on leash which is a maximum of 10 feet.

For more details, contact Site Superintendent, Newton Lake State Fish and Wildlife Area, R.R. 4, Box 178B, Newton, IL 62448, phone (618) 783-3478.

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS-URBANA
3 0112 122556019

Illinois Department of Conservation
life and land together

Printed by authority of the State of Illinois Department of Conservation, an equal opportunity employer 50M-4-85